AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 4, 7, 13 and 16 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 1 and 10, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method of forming a luster coating film, comprising the steps of:

(1) applying an aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (A), the solids content of the base coating composition (A) being about 5 to about 15 wt. % to a substrate in two to five stages, in such a manner that the thickness of the base coating composition (A) applied in each of the second and subsequent stages becomes 0.3 to 5 μm when cured;

(2) applying a thermosetting clear coating composition (B) over the uncured or heat-cured coating layer of the base coating composition (A);

(3) applying an aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (C), the solids content of the base coating composition (C) being about 5 to about 15 wt. % to the uncured or heat-cured coating layer of the clear coating composition (B) in two to five stages;

(4) applying a thermosetting clear coating composition (D) over the uncured or heat-cured coating layer of the base coating composition (C); and

(5) heating the four-layer coating comprising the base coating composition (A), clear coating composition (B), base coating composition (C) and clear coating composition (D) to obtain a cured four-layer coating film;

wherein, in step (1), the solids content of the aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (A) one minute after the application in each stage is at least 40 wt.%;

wherein, in step (1), after each coating stage, the applied composition is allowed to stand, or is preheated at about 50 about 80°C;

wherein, in step (3), the solids content of the aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (C) one minute after the application in each stage is at least 40 wt.%;

wherein, in step (3), after each coating stage, the applied composition is allowed to stand, or is preheated at about 50 to about 80°C.

Claim 2 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (A) comprises a water-soluble or water-dispersible, crosslinkable functional group-containing resin, a crosslinking agent and a flaky luster pigment.

Claim 3 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein, in step (1), the thickness of the aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (A) applied in the first stage is 0.3 to 9 μm when cured.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (C) comprises a water-soluble or water-dispersible, crosslinkable functional group-containing resin, a crosslinking agent and a flaky luster pigment.

Claim 6 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein, in step (3), the thickness of the aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (C) applied in each stage is 0.3 to 5 μm when cured.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the substrate is an automotive body or a part thereof.

Claim 9 (Original): An automotive body or a part thereof having a luster coating film formed by the method according to claim 8.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): A method of forming a luster coating film, comprising the steps of:

(1) applying an aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (A), the solids content of the base coating composition (A) being about 5 to about 15 wt. % to a substrate in two to five stages, in such a manner that the thickness of the base coating composition (A) applied in each of the second and subsequent stages becomes 0.3 to 5 μm when cured;

(2) applying a thermosetting clear coating (B) over the uncured or heat-cured coating layer of the base coating composition (A);

(3) applying an aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (C), the solids content of the base coating composition (C) being about 5 to about 15 wt. % over the uncured or heat-cured coating layer of the clear coating composition (B) in two to five stages;

(4) applying a thermosetting clear coating composition (D) over the uncured or heat-cured coating layer of the base coating composition (C);

(5) applying a thermosetting clear coating composition (E) over the uncured or heat-cured coating layer of the clear coating composition (D); and

(6) heating the five-layer coating comprising the base coating composition (A), clear coating composition (B), base coating composition (C), clear coating composition (D) and clear coating composition (E) to obtain a cured five-layer coating film;

wherein, in step (1), the solids content of the aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (A) one minute after the application in each stage is at least 40 wt.%;

wherein, in step (1), after each coating stage, the applied composition is allowed to stand, or is preheated at about 50 about 80°C;

wherein, in step (3), the solids content of the aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (C) one minute after the application in each stage is at least 40 wt.%;

wherein, in step (3), after each coating stage, the applied composition is allowed to stand, or is preheated at about 50 to about 80°C.

Claim 11 (Original): The method according to claim 10, wherein the aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (A) comprises a water-soluble or water-dispersible, crosslinkable functional group-containing resin, a crosslinking agent and a flaky luster pigment.

Claim 12 (Original): The method according to claim 10, wherein, in step (1), the thickness of the aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (A) applied in the first stage is 0.3 to 9 μm when cured.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Original): The method according to claim 10, wherein the aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (C) comprises a water-soluble or water-dispersible, crosslinkable functional group-containing resin, a crosslinking agent and a flaky luster pigment.

Claim 15 (Original): The method according to claim 10, wherein, in step (3), the thickness of the aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (C) applied in each stage is 0.3 to 5 μm when cured.

Claim 16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Original): The method according to claim 10, wherein the substrate is an automotive body or a part thereof.

Claim 18 (Original): An automotive body or a part thereof having a luster coating film formed by the method according to claim 17.